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# CT news

The voice of the Clerical-Technical Union of Michigan State University

November 2017



## CTU urges "NO" vote on East Lansing income tax proposal

*"The proposed flat tax will harm lower-income workers disproportionately, including members of the Clerical-Technical Union."*

East Lansing residents will decide on November 7 whether or not to implement an income tax on all residents and non-resident workers of the city.

On October 13 the Executive Board of the Clerical-Technical Union of MSU passed a resolution opposing the tax (page 5).

Among other considerations, the union opposes the flat tax because of the financial burden it will place on our

members and other workers, especially those with lower paying jobs.

The union opposes the income tax also because of the harm it may do to the economy and community of East Lansing.

### Facing the problem

CTU's leadership understands that most cities in Michigan are facing serious financial pressures. The City of East Lansing is not alone in trying to address the fallout from past budget decisions and a state legislature that is not living up to revenue sharing commitments.

To solve its budgetary deficit, East Lansing has proposed an income tax of 1% for East Lansing residents and 0.5% for income earned in East Lansing by non-residents, including employees who work on MSU's East Lansing campus. As part of the deal, the city would cap maximum property taxes at 13 mills, down from about 17 mills, in any year an income tax is collected.

### Ignoring solutions

Traditionally, MSU and East Lansing

**Tax continued on p. 4**



## Vote NO in East Lansing Tuesday, Nov. 7!

# CT news

The voice of the Clerical-Technical Union  
of Michigan State University

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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Organized and  
independent  
since 1974!

## CTU Executive Board

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## Editorial Policy:

The CT News is the voice of our union. It is our vehicle for communicating, on a regular basis, the issues that confront us as workers. Through this newsletter we explain union policies, show how dues are spent, and explain the views and actions of the elected leadership for evaluation by the members.

The CT News is the voice of the membership. We welcome articles from members and stories about members.

While contributions are welcome, they should be constructive and contribute positively to the welfare of our union.

We will accept no attacks on any union leader or member. We will accept thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letters section, and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the union and its policies.

Direct ideas, letters, questions and comments to Cherylee Finney.

# CTclassifieds

## For sale:

▼ **AdvoCare:** Hello. My name is Bdour Al-Yasari. I am a distributor for a company called AdvoCare, a premier health and wellness company. AdvoCare offers world-class nutrition, weight-management, energy and sports-performance products. If you are tired of losing energy during the day, you should try our number one seller, Spark, a unique blend of 20 vitamins, minerals, and nutrients that work synergistically to provide a healthy and balanced source of energy. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me via email: [bdour0888@yahoo.com](mailto:bdour0888@yahoo.com). Thank you!



▼ **Small sleeper sofa:** 68" length, 33" depth. Great size for den, library, basement room, or apartment. Blue & rose flowered pattern, excellent condition, no stains, hardly used. Has been stored & shrink-wrapped to keep clean. Paid \$150, will take \$50 cash. Email Jane at [jane1753@yahoo.com](mailto:jane1753@yahoo.com) or call 484-1221.

## Membership Meetings

Membership Meetings are held quarterly in January, April, July and October. The dates and locations for 2018 will be announced after the Executive Board meets in November. Membership meetings are for making decisions about the Union, asking questions and receiving updates about Union activities.

### Executive Board Meetings

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 5:15

CTU Office

Members welcome!

▼ **CTU T-shirts:** Get your U.S.-made v-neck CTU



tees in charcoal or heather charcoal. Only \$5 each while supplies last. Contact Organizational Secretary Barb Harris at 355-1903 or [Barb@ctumsu.org](mailto:Barb@ctumsu.org).

## Services:

▼ **Quality Carpet and Upholstery**

**Cleaners:** Fall is a great time to schedule your appointment to have your carpets and upholstery cleaned. The holidays are fast approaching and will be upon us before you know it, so be the one to get a head start on your holiday cleaning. Quality Carpet Cleaners is owner operated and reasonably priced. Please give us a call for a free estimate 517-694-0497.

▼ **Skills assessment software:** The CTU makes the software and a work station available to members so that they can practice for the university's skills assessment tests. This is the same software that Human Resources uses to evaluate skills in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and more. Call 355-1903 to make an appointment.

## Free:

▼ **CTU Conference Room:** Available free to members (with deposit). For non-members, \$25/hour plus deposit. Contact the CTU office at 355-1903 for questions, reservations, etc.

▼ **Advertise** to your colleagues in the *CT News*. Contact Cherylee Finney at [Cheryl@ctumsu.org](mailto:Cheryl@ctumsu.org). The *CT News* accepts ads from CTU members on items for sale and/or services provided by CTU members and/or their household family members. See advertising guidelines at [www.ctumsu.org/news/ct-classifieds](http://www.ctumsu.org/news/ct-classifieds).

[Ashley Groves]

## President's corner

### Elections and holidays

# Concerns of the season

President Deb Bittner

**W**e are getting this issue of the newsletter out earlier than usual because it is important to weigh in on the East Lansing income tax before the November 7 election. As a union, we avoid endorsing candidates, but when issues have a direct impact on our paychecks and work lives, we are obligated to take a position in support of our members.

Please read the article and the resolution carefully, and educate yourself on the ballot proposal. If you live in East Lansing, make sure you vote. If you live outside East Lansing but work on the main campus, you can't vote on this issue even though you will be taxed. Both residents and non-residents can take action. The article tells you how.

A lot of us have elections coming up in our communities. Find out how your candidates feel about your concerns. Remember to ask about their positions on labor issues and unions. Many candidates in local races move on to higher offices, so we need to have good people in the pipeline. Then make sure to vote.

### CTU's election

Our own election was canceled this year because we didn't have any contested positions. I am happy to continue my service to the union as your president, and I was pleased that we saved the

time, energy, and money that would formerly have been spent on an uncontested election. However, I think we need to have a conversation about member involvement as we move forward.

I am proud of the way CTU members show up when we are needed. However, when it comes to stepping forward to be a UR or run for the board, we've hit a bit of a lag. Some of us may be sitting back because we are satisfied with the work and direction of the union. (I hope that's the reason.) Most of us are short on time because of our increasing workloads. But maybe there are members who simply have not been asked or encouraged to get more involved.

Let us know what you think. Send a letter to the newsletter or contact me at [Deb@ctumsu.org](mailto:Deb@ctumsu.org). I'm interested in hearing from you.

### 'Tis the season

The November issue also brings home the reality that the holidays are just around the corner.

When I count my blessings later this month, I'll be including my thanks for our new health care contract. Through the work of the unions, we bargained a fully funded insurance option that provides for high quality care. *And* we managed to improve the wage component for the next four years. *And* the unions and university agreed to continue working together to protect our benefits while keeping them affordable.

I am especially thankful to the CTU members who recognized how good the new health care contract is and turned out to vote for it.

### Conscientious purchasing

As always, I encourage you to "check the label" before you purchase gifts and holiday supplies. Try to make an effort to

Support the elves!



BUY UNION!

buy gifts and other items that are union-made or made locally, in Michigan and/or in the United States. For your convenience, we updated CTU's Shopping List (see below, left). Please let us know if you have merchants or links you would like to see added.

### Community giving

One last plug for the "season of giving"—I urge you to consider donating to our community through MSU's Community Charitable Campaign. It is a great way for us to pool our limited individual resources in order to make a huge impact. [Jerrad Billington]

In my work with both the MSU Community Charitable Campaign and Capital Area United Way, I have become very aware of the need in our local communities, and also of the many incredible programs that exist to help. Together, we do make a difference.

You can donate online through EBS or print the donation form and mail it in. Information is available at [www.msuccc.msu.edu](http://www.msuccc.msu.edu). For fun, you can check out how CTU is doing in our giving compared to other MSU employee groups by checking on "Statistics."

In the midst of all the hustle and bustle of the next couple months, I remind you to take some time out to unwind, connect with family and friends, and just let yourself feel some of the joy of the season. I am certain you have earned it. [Susan Platte]

### Find union-made gifts

Every year it seems harder to find holiday gifts that are union-, U.S.-, Michigan-, or locally made. However, there is hope. Check out CTU's Shopping List for ideas and links:

[www.ctumsu.org/the-shopping-list/](http://www.ctumsu.org/the-shopping-list/)



# Tax continued from p. 1

have enjoyed a mutually supportive relationship. Recognizing that the university does impact East Lansing's budget, MSU gives the City money toward expenses such as fire department services and the additional policing necessitated by university-related sporting events.

Initially, East Lansing did not approach MSU to negotiate an increase in MSU's financial support. And when MSU offered to increase that support in order to assist with the City's budgetary issues, East Lansing decided instead to go ahead with the ballot proposal.

East Lansing also did not attempt other solutions such as reconsidering some of its massive development plans and associated tax breaks.

Instead, East Lansing officials seem determined to portray the staff and students of the university as pariahs who drain the city coffers, rather than as the spark of its existence and heart of its economy.

## CTU: a voice for workers

The CTU opposes balancing budgets on the backs of workers—regardless of whether it is done by a private employer, public employer, or governmental body. Asking for such sacrifices should be a last resort and part of a balanced approach to budgetary problems.

Therefore, the CTU Executive Board is urging our 117 members who reside in East Lansing to vote "NO" on the proposal. [Michelle Jackson]

Although most CTs will not have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to be taxed by East Lansing, everyone who works in East Lansing will be taxed.

And *everyone*—both residents and nonresidents—can volunteer to make phone calls, go door-to-door, provide financial support, or even just put up a yard sign, and everyone can encourage family, friends, and coworkers who live in East Lansing to vote NO.

**For more information and to volunteer, go to [www.noELincometax.com](http://www.noELincometax.com) or go to [noELincometax](#) on Facebook.**

## Resolution of the Clerical-Technical Union at MSU in Opposition to the East Lansing Income Tax Proposal

WHEREAS the Clerical-Technical Union at MSU historically has opposed balancing budgets on the backs of workers, and

WHEREAS the proposed flat tax will harm lower-income workers disproportionately, including members of the Clerical-Technical Union, and

WHEREAS the proposed tax will also disproportionately harm less wealthy residents of East Lansing who have lower incomes and home values, causing many young families to locate outside the City, and

WHEREAS Michigan State University indicated a willingness to provide additional support directly to the City of East Lansing in lieu of an income tax, and

WHEREAS the proposal may harm the City's economy by hindering the recruitment and retention of top talent for companies of all sizes, including small entrepreneurial firms, and

WHEREAS the proposal may cause further harm to the City's economy by providing a disincentive for new businesses to locate in East Lansing, and

WHEREAS the City of East Lansing has not responded to questions about how its budget will be impacted when the proposed property tax reductions interfere with revenue expected from private commercial development, and

WHEREAS an East Lansing income tax will siphon approximately \$800,000 per year from our industrial neighbor, Lansing,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Clerical-Technical Union opposes the East Lansing ballot proposal to impose an income tax on the workers of the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerical-Technical Union urges residents of the City of East Lansing to make their voices heard and vote "NO" on Tuesday, November 7.

## URdistricts

### Interested in becoming a Union Representative?

Contact Vice President **Rosie Garcia**  
355-9672x7-7273 or [garciar@msu.edu](mailto:garciar@msu.edu)



# Board actions

July through September 2017

**B**oard meetings are regularly scheduled twice a month, on first and third Tuesdays, and members are welcome to attend starting at 5:15. The CTU constitution requires the Executive Board to meet at least once a month.

*This article includes Board actions that took place July through September 2017. All expenditure decisions are included, but the list does not represent meetings in their entirety. Members can receive copies of complete minutes through the mail or email by contacting the CTU office at 355-1903.*

## July 11

Renewed the annual ClipArt.com subscription for \$69.97.

Renewed our organizational membership in the Michigan's Women's Hall of Fame for \$75.

Discussed gutter repair and signage for the CTU building.

Discussed upcoming ratification for the health care agreement.

Received reports on free Labor Notes workshops, "Organizing Around an Issue" and "Using Social Media."

Received report on the picnic: about 300 attended, including several members who had not participated before.

Received president's report about Residential Housing Services' move to the 1855 Building.

## August 1

Renewed CTU's three-year email and web hosting subscription for \$595.17

Received vice president's report on upcoming union training and activities.

Talked about members-only union benefits. [Anne Simon]

Discussed the need for volunteers for our upcoming election.

## August 15, 2017

Voted to spend up to \$125 on an auction item for the End Violent Encounters (EVE) Silent Auction.

Agreed to place a \$100 business card-sized ad in the program for the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Decided to purchase a \$100 sponsorship of the MSU Retiree Association Golf Outing and Staff Scholarship Fundraiser.

Agreed by consensus to accept the members of the Election Committee: Sierra Matthews (chair), Brenda Bailey, Rosie Garcia, Stacey Patton, Judy Redding.

Received president's reports on health care ratification, Personnel Committee activities, and an upcoming special conference on departmental absentee policies.

## September 5

Agreed to donate \$100 to the Old Newsboys "Lansing Silver Dollar Saloon Tribute" fundraiser upon receiving assurances that the money would be transferred directly to the Old Newsboys. [Editor's note: This donation was not made because of difficulties in confirming that the full \$100 would be transferred.]

Agreed to buy two \$135 tickets and one \$67.50 ticket (the "judge" rate) for the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame 2017 Awards Dinner and Induction Ceremony.

Voted to send up to four CTs to classes taught by MSU's Labor Education Program at a cost of \$25 per week for six weeks.

Received vice president's report on the need for Union Representatives in a number of empty districts.

Received president's update on the "Fill the Bus" school challenge. Bittner said we had a lot of donations for the fundraiser this year, and she recognized Union Representative Judy Redding for once again motivating many members in her area to donate to the needs of children.

Received president's update on ratification of the health care contract. The MSU Board of Trustees ratified the agreement with seven of the eight unions covered by the health care Memorandum of Understanding. The one union that turned it down has entered into negotiations with the University. [Editor's note: All eight unions covered by the health care Memorandum of Understanding have ratified the agreement at this time.]

Received president's report that raffle tickets to the MSU v. Lansing Lugnuts Crosstown Showdown baseball game was a big hit.

## September 19

Voted to spend up to \$5,000 to replace or repair the gutter system on the CTU building.

Agreed to correct an earlier reporting error by paying the additional \$7.50 of the \$75 Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony judge's ticket.

Received report that the election scheduled for October 24 has been canceled because every open seat is uncontested. We will vote for a member to fill the secretary position at the Membership Meeting.

Discussed the upcoming East Lansing income tax elections and how or if CTU should be involved.

Received Personnel Committee report that our staff's union has requested a wage re-opener.



**CTU OF MSU**  
**2990 E. LAKE LANSING ROAD**  
**EAST LANSING, MI 48823-6219**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

# CTcalendar CTnotables

**November 7, 21**, and every first and third Tuesday. Executive Board meetings, 5:15 p.m., CTU office. Members welcome.

**November 15.** “Medjool dates,” is the focus of this month’s Health4U Recipe for the Health Cooking presentation by Chef Kurt. Buy your lunch with cash or a meal plan (\$10.50), select your lunch from Brody Square, and proceed to the Brody Square Demonstration Kitchen, 12:10–12:50 p.m. Register at [www.health4u.msu.edu](http://www.health4u.msu.edu).

**November 17.** “Protest and Struggle: Songs from the Past, Fights for the Future,” Windborne, A Capella Folk Performers. LEP’s Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Series. Green Room, MSU Library, Room 449W., 12:15–1:30. Free.

**Congratulations, Tracy Abbott and Wendi Winston**, winners of the 2017 Clerical Technical Recognition Award given in honor of Thomas and Concettina Gliozzo for outstanding service. Abbott works in the Education Dean’s Office, and Winston, a CTU Union Representative, works at the Detroit Medical Center. Two awards were given this year to mark the 15-year anniversary of the award.

**Congratulations** (somewhat belated), **Walt Peebles**, winner of the Jo-Ann Vanden Bergh Award in June. Peebles is an art shop coordinator at Kresge.

**Congratulations** (even more belated), **Carolyn Skedat**, winner of MSU’s Jack Breslin Distinguished Staff Award in April. Skedat works in the Natural Sciences Dean’s Office.

*Office of the Registrar’s  
 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar  
 “A Green and White Christmas”*



Friday, December 1, 2017  
 Rm. 150 Administration Bldg.  
 Conference Room

Shopping Hours: 7:30a.m to 3:30p.m.  
 Lunch sale: 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m.

*Raffle drawings held throughout the day!  
 Tickets: 3 for \$1*

*Plenty of shopping, good food to eat,  
 and lots of fun!*

*All proceeds donated to  
 TOYS FOR TOTS!*